



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033228-019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP: ISSUE FEE
Morihito NOMURA et al.)	Allowed: February 20, 2004
Application No.: 10/042,309)	Group Art Unit: 3677
Filed: January 11, 2002)	Examiner: D. Melwani
For: VEHICLE DOOR HANDLE DEVICE)	Confirmation No.: 4265

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT
OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

An Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanied the Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with the above-identified application. The Statement indicates that the prior art taken as a whole does not show or render obvious the claimed combination of features. The Statement then goes on to mention a number of features. To clarify the record, it is noted that each of the independent claims in this application defines the invention with different claim wording. As such, applicants submit that the Statement should not be interpreted to mean that all of the independent claims in this application include the particular features, wording and/or language mentioned in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

For example, the Statement of Reasons for Allowance mentions a "projection formed on one of the frame and the first end portion" of the handgrip and the

"groove formed on the other of the frame and the first end portion of the handgrip."

This language is used in independent Claim 1, but is not set forth in independent Claims 12 and 19. Rather, Claims 12 and 19 recite "a projection and a groove provided between the frame and the handgrip."

Thus, applicants do not agree with the observations in the Statement, at least to the extent they are intended to imply that the discussed features and specific wording are embodied in all of the independent claims, and at least to the extent they exclude other reasons for the allowability of the claims in this application. In sum, applicants submit that the claims in this application are allowable because the prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention as recited in each of the respective independent claims.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or if the Examiner disagrees in any way with these Comments, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date:

20 May 2004

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